

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CPR-02 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01

/075 W

----- 109633

R 211051 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7714

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2174

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PMILI, IS

SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE AT ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

1. IN COOPERATION WITH CONGEN JERUSALEM, EMBASSY HAS SURVEYED ROUTE OF MAY 7 INDEPENDENCE DAY MILITARY PARADE. IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT PARADE WILL ORIGINATE IN EAST JERUSALEM AND MUCH OF ITS COURSE WILL BE THROUGH THAT SIDE OF CITY. MAJOR REVIEWING STANDS, INCLUDING WHAT APPEAR TO BE VIP SECTIONS, ARE BEING BUILT WELL WITHIN EAST JERUSALEM. WHILE PLANS FOR PARADE NOW APPEAR COMPLETELY FIRM, THERE HAS BEEN SOME GRUMBLING IN PRESS ABOUT NEEDLESS DEMONSTRATION OF MILITARY POWER BEFORE ARAB EYES AND ALSO ABOUT EXPENSE INVOLVED.

2. IN VIEW THESE CONSIDERATIONS, EMBASSY MADE WORKING LEVEL INFORMAL APPROACH TO FONMIN REGARDING WHAT PLANS GOI MIGHT HAVE FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY THAT MIGHT INVOLVE EMBASSY PERSONNEL. IMMEDIATE MFA REACTION WAS TO AGREE THAT TIME HAD COME TO LOOK INTO THIS AND OFFICER CONCERNED VOLUNTEERED UNDERSTANDING THAT EMBASSY MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND PARADE.

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3. FONMIN HAS NOW INFORMED EMBASSY, INFORMALLY BUT OFFICIALLY, THAT DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN NOT RPT NOT TO INVITE DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO PARADE. IT WAS STATED IDF MAY INVITE FOREIGN MILITARY ATTACHES, BUT NO AUTHORITATIVE WORD COULD BE GIVEN AT THIS TIME. DATT UNDERSTANDS FROM INDEPENDENT SOURCE THAT IDF DOES INTEND TO INVITE ATTACHES, BUT WILL PROBABLY NOT SEND OUT INVITATIONS UNTIL FEW DAYS BEFORE PARADE.

4. ACCORDING TO MINISTRY, DIPLOMATIC CORPS PARTICIPATION IN INDEPENDENCE DAY EVENTS WILL CONSIST, AS USUAL, OF RECEPTION BY PRESIDENT SHAZAR AT HIS OFFICIAL RESIDENCE IN AFTERNOON AND DINNER BY FOREIGN MINISTER EBAN THAT EVENING. THESE ARE STANDARD EVENTS WHICH CHIEF OF MISSION HAS ALWAYS ATTENDED.

5. IT IS EMBASSY' S VIEW, CONCURRED IN BY DATT, THAT ATTACHES SHOULD COURTEOUSLY DECLINE INVITATIONS TO PARADE IF THEY ARE RECEIVED. DIA TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS CAN BE MET BY ATTACHES FROM FRIENDLY THIRD COUNTRY CONSULATE ON PARADE ROUTE.

6. EMBASSY DOES NOT INTEND TO PROHIBIT MEMBERS OF STAFF FROM ATTENDING PARADE AS TOURISTS BUT WILL CAUTION ANY WHO DO SO THAT THEY MAY NOT SIT IN ANY OFFICIAL STANDS OR TAKE ANY ACTION OR MAKE ANY COMMENT THAT WOULD INVITE ATTENTION OR IMPLY ANY OFFICIAL CONNECTION WITH PARADE.

7. WHILE WE DOUBT CONGEN JERUSALEM WILL RECEIVE INVITATION TO PARADE, IF THIS SHOULD OCCUR RECOMMEND COURTEOUS REFUSAL.

8. UPON CONFIRMATION ABOVE PLANS BY DEPT, WE WILL LET OUR DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES KNOW OF OUR PLANS AT APPROPRIATE TIME IN LOW KEY.
ZURHELLEN

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